United Nations S/2015/718

Security Council

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17 September 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information:

Tuesday, 15 September 2015 was another day of bloodshed for the city of Aleppo. Armed terrorist groups carried out yet another massacre of the innocent population. Even children at school were not spared.

Armed terrorists belonging to the so-called Army of Mujahidin, the Badr Martyrs' Brigade, the Nusrah Front, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki Battalion and other terrorist organizations associated with the would-be-Islamist Erdoğan regime and the Wahhabi Al-Saud regime fired a large number of missiles and explosive shells at several quarters of Aleppo city. The neighbourhoods of Furqan and Hamdaniyah were the worst hit. The targets were children at school and civilians in their homes and places of work. Thirty-one civilians were killed, of whom 13 were children, three were women and 15 were men, several of them elderly. Over 135 civilians were injured, most of them children, women and the elderly. Some are in a serious condition. There was also extensive material damage to public and private property.

The massacre was committed by the terrorist groups that some like to call "the moderate armed opposition" or "armed non-State groups". This was one of a series of terrorist crimes that have targeted peaceful Syrian cities, including Aleppo, for over four years. The city's innocent civilians have been killed, starved and denied water. Food has been kept out, and the water and electrical networks have been sabotaged. Those actions were taken because the population took a firm stand against the extremist terrorist groups, rejecting their obscurantist practices and their repulsive, inhuman ideology.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it is ready to combat terrorism in Syria and determined to fulfil its constitutional duty to defend and protect the Syrian people. It once more calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn this latest criminal act, support the efforts of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and cooperate with it in order to eradicate terrorism, which endangers peace and security in Syria, the region and the world.

Syria once again calls on the Security Council to take deterrent action against the terrorist groups and those States that support and fund them. The Council must

avoid double standards in its approach to terrorism. It cannot make excuses or hide behind tired and discredited old assertions. It must uphold its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). Syria also reiterates that the United Nations must take a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism and eschew the sophistry that was recently deployed by certain States, including the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Australia and Belgium in order to mount an assault on the Charter of the United Nations, abdicate their responsibilities and justify their insincere counter-terrorism efforts and their violations of State sovereignty.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/719

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 September 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 17 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to document S/2015/688 of 8 September 2015 and document S/2015/693 of 9 September 2015, I write to inform the Security Council that the United Kingdom, Australia and France are currently taking military measures against the Syrian Arab Republic. To that end, they invoke a distorted reading of the intention of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, one that is blatantly inconsistent with the Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which emphasize that States must respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Article 51 of the Charter provides that nothing in the Charter shall impair or detract from States' inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed force attacks a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. France, Britain and Australia claim that they are taking such measures at the request of the Republic of Iraq and in support of the right of Iraq to self-defence. In that connection, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to explain the following points:

- Syria is surprised that certain States, some of which are permanent members of the Security Council, are violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations and have the temerity to explain their actions by distorting the meaning of this important and sensitive paragraph of the Charter in a manner that risks causing chaos and wars across the world. Syria has not made any request to that effect. Moreover, the Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions on counter-terrorism in Syria that are binding on States Members of the United Nations.

- In accordance with its constitutional duties, and on instructions from the Syrian Government, the Syrian Arab Army has, over the last four years, indefatigably fought such armed terrorist groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida and supported by Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and certain well-known western States, which arm, shelter and train the terrorist groups. Any actor that genuinely wishes to fight terrorism in Syria must recognize the

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achievements of the Syrian Arab Army and the Syrian armed forces in combating terrorism, and must coordinate with them.

- The claims, particularly those made in the Australian letter, are belied by the actions taken by the Syrian Arab Army to combat ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist organizations. Such claims are foolish, mendacious and need not be dignified with a response. Indeed, the so-called international coalition led by America has yet to achieve anything tangible in its war on the terrorist organizations. On the contrary, it has allowed the terrorist organization ISIL and its satellites and allies to expand, move and deploy freely, not only in Syria and Iraq but also in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and even at the heart of certain Western States whose behaviour and political discourse encourage their terrorist actions.

- If any State invokes the excuse of counter-terrorism in order to be present on Syrian territory without the consent of the Syrian Government, whether on the country's land or in its airspace or territorial waters, its actions shall be considered a violation of Syrian sovereignty. Combating terrorism on Syrian territory requires close cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government in accordance with the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council.

- In order genuinely to fight terrorism, the Governments and agencies of Britain, Australia and France should stop exporting extremist terrorists to Syria and refrain from providing them with logistical support and a media platform from which to spread their obscurantist, destructive ideology.

- The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the United Kingdom, Australia and France must respect the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which stress that States must respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. Those States must also cease violating and distorting the meaning of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/720

Security Council

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17 September 2015

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Identical letters dated 17 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Once again, radical Islamic operatives have used the occasion of a Jewish holiday to stage provocations and instigate violence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. These groups have a long track record of attacking Jews on their holiest days, at their holiest place.

On Sunday, as Jews around the world prepared to celebrate Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, a group of militant Islamist agitators deliberately disrupted visits by tourists and Israelis to the Temple Mount complex, the holiest site in Judaism, and instigated a violent clash with Israeli police. The operatives prepared for this violent confrontation by stockpiling rocks, planks, wooden sheets and fireworks. They also prepared lethal weapons such as Molotov firebombs and explosive devices in advance of the calculated provocation. When Israeli police entered the area to maintain order and ensure free access, the operatives unleashed their attack. The violent attacks continued for three consecutive days, throughout the Jewish festival, as the masked operatives threw rocks, firebombs and firecrackers at the police, who responded with non-lethal riot dispersal measures.

I wish to emphasize that these three days of Palestinian violence on the Temple Mount were not provoked by any Israeli activity. I would also like to make clear that at no point did Israeli police forces enter the mosque. All damage sustained at the mosque was a direct result of the activities of the militants. As a matter of policy, the Israeli police do not enter the mosque itself. Furthermore, Israeli police officers are not posted on the Temple Mount and only enter the area in specific cases when riots have to be controlled.

The violence against Jews has not been limited to those who seek to visit the Temple Mount. Alexander Lebelovitch, age 64, was returning home from a Rosh Hashana dinner Sunday night when Palestinians attacked his car with a barrage of stones, causing him to lose control of his vehicle and crash into a roadside ditch. Mr. Lebelovitch, a father of three, died from his injuries Monday morning. While stone-throwing has been all but ignored by the United Nations and the Security Council, this attack proves, once again, that stones can kill. Accordingly, Israel takes measures necessary to deter and prevent these serious attacks.

As I stated above, this is not the first time that such groups have planned provocations for the Jewish holidays. Almost one year ago, on the eve of the Jewish festival of Sukkot, masked operatives carried out a nearly identical attack, attacking

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